planned for production in the defence production units, non-lethal, non-sensitive components, sub-assemblies and assemblies which can be productionised in the civil sector are being identified and orders for such components, sub-assemblies and assemblies are ordered on civil sector firms including those in the private sector. This cannot be called privatisation. Such off-loading to the civil sector including the private sector is, however, through direct inter action with the Industry and not through foreign firms.

Poverty alleviation

1357. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state·

(a) The steps taken to lay sterss on poverty alleviation and to solve unemployment problem during the Seventh Five Year plan period;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year plan preiod; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Removal of poverty and unemployment is the central concern of planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan laid emphasis on accelarated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in eastern region, developing the potential of dry land agriculture, adoption of special measures for increasing and expandinglirrigation facilities, provision of incentives for development of small and village industries. The Plan also included a number of antipoverty and employment generation programmes specially designed to raise skills productivity and incomes of people below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Steering|Working Grouns have been set up to suggest specific steps which need to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Spread of AIDS in India

1358. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to ensure that the existing blood banks have not been trainted by AIDS-infected donors;

(b) whether Government have started a systematic approach to this problem; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) 739 Blood Banks are functioning in the country. Out of this 50 per cent of the available blood is collected from four Metropolitian cities.

An action plan has been evolved to enoure safety of blood products and prevent spread of AIDS infection through bload transfusion steps have been initiated to establish linkages between blood banks and surveillance centres in 30 cities, so that screening of blood for HIV antibodies could be initiated. In two metropolitan cities—Madras and Bombay the screening programme has already been launched.

Guidelines have also been issued for screening of blood donors, where surveillance centres have been established by Indian Council of Medical Research

Export of Defence items

1359. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export defence items;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared regarding the items to be

exported and the countries to which these items will be exported;

(c) the details of the guidelines; and

(d) whether the decision to export defence items will affect India's image of being a non-aligned nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Export of defence items will be made, on merits of each case, to friendly countries, subject to periodical assessment of the international situation. The items to be exported will depend on the requirements of the buyers and their availability with us. Such export will, generally, be on commercial basis.

(d) No, Sir.

Licensing conditions for import of medical equipment from Japan

1360. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state·

(a) whether any notification has been issued on licensing conditions for import of medical equipment and services from Japan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Notifications regarding the licensing conditions for import of Medical Equipments and services from Japan under the Japanese Grant Aid (87-88) & (88-89) have been issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. Ministry of Commerce vide their Public Notice No. 64-ITC (PN) 88—91 dated 24 October, 1988 & No. 94-ITC (PN) 88—91 dated January 1989. The notifications lay-down the Licensing Conditions and Procedure to be followed for importing equipment from Japan under the Japanese Grant in aid for Regional Cancer Centres; and for improvement of Educational Technology equipment of Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Improvement in the electronics growth

1362. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electronic industry is in a jeopardy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the changes in the electronic policy were initiated only in 1983; and

(d) if so, what was the production of electronics goods during 1986 and to what extent it increased since then and what is the likely productinn during 1988-89 and what steps are being taken for improving the electronics growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL). (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electronics policy has continuously evolved since the inception of Electronics Commission and the Department. Major changes in fiscal policy were initiated in 1983.

(d) The production of Electronics goods during 1986 was worth Rs. 3460 crores which increased to Rs. 4720 crores in 1987 showing growth rate of 36.4 per cent. The production during 1988-89 will be around Rs. 7100 crores. The steps taken for improving the electronics growth are given in the enclosed statement.